Robertson for Bassanio." (Evidently this was in answer to a request from me. Naturally, the Bancrofts wanted some one of higher standing, but was I wrong about J. Forbes-Robertson ? I think not!) " The mother came to see me the other day. I was extremely sorry to hear the bad news of Tom/' (Tom was the black sheep of our family, but a fascinating wretch, all the same.) " I rejoice to think of your coming back," he writes another time, "to show the stage what an actress should be." "A thousand thanks for the photographs. I like the profile best. It is most Paolo Veronesish and gives the right notion of your Portia, although the colour hardly suggests the golden gorgeousness of your dress and the blonde glory of the hair and complexion. . . . I hope you have seen the quiet little boxes at 's foolish article." (This refers to an article which attacked my Portia in *Blackwood's Magazine.)* " Of course, if ----------found his ideal in--he must dislike you in Portia, or in anything where it is a case of grace and spontaneity and iNature against affecta-tion, over-emphasis, stilt, and false idealism. —in short, utter lack of Nature". How *can* the same critic admire both? However, the.public is with you, happily, as it is not always when the* struggle is between good art and bad/[1] . . . - • " . '

I quote these dear letters from my friend, not in my praise, but in his. Until his death in 1880, he never ceased to write to me sympathetically and

encouragingly ;
he rejoiced in my success the more because he had felt
himself in part responsible for my marriage and its unhappy
ending, and had perhaps feared that my life would suffer.
Every little detail about me and my children, or about any
of my family, was of interest to him. He was never too
busy to give an attentive ear to my difficulties. " ' Think
of you lovingly if I can ' ! " he writes to me at a time when